

 City of Westminster	Standards Committee
Meeting or Decision Maker:	Standards Committee
Date:	7 April 2022
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Member/ Officer Protocol
Report of:	Hazel Best, Monitoring Officer

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to update the Standards Committee on the review of Protocol on Member/ Officer relations. (Appendix 1)

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the timetable for the review of the Protocol on Member/ Officer relations.
- 2.3 To provide feedback on the current Protocol on Member/ Officer relations

3. Background

- 3.1 The Chief Executive attended the Standards Committee on 27 October 2021 to say he supported a review of the Protocol on Member / Officer relations and asked for this to be overseen by the Standards Committee.
- 3.2 The members of the Standards Committee agreed to add this to their work programme.
- 3.3 Effective communication and collaborative working between Members and Officers is essential for good local government. Whilst it is important to recognise and take account of the different and distinct roles Members and Officers have, it is only by working together that good governance within a council is achieved. Essentially Members represent Members of the public,

provide leadership and direction to the Council and scrutinise service delivery. Officers implement the policies agreed by Members, organise and deliver services and provided unbiased, professional advice and support to Councillors. Members and Officers have a collective corporate responsibility, and both are bound by the Nolan principles.

- 3.4 It is also proposed that code of conduct training provided to Members includes the Protocol on Member and Officer relations and for all senior officers and new staff to receive briefings on how to work with Members.
- 3.5 The Interim Monitoring Officer and the Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison have attended a number of departmental officer meetings to obtain their feedback on the current protocol and to request feedback on how this could be updated/ amended. This is ongoing.
- 3.6 Views of Members via the party whips was made. This will be followed up after the local elections which will take place on 5 May. The views of Members can also be sought at the code of conduct training which will take place shortly after the local election.
- 3.7 A draft revised Protocol on Member and Officer relations will be presented to the Standards Committee on 7 April.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Appendix 1 [Protocol on Member/Officer Relations \(westminster.gov.uk\)](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/protocol-on-member-officer-relations)

**If you have any queries about this report, please contact:
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